

We Claim:

1. A method for lubricating the passage of a container along a conveyor, comprising applying a mixture of a water-miscible silicone material and a water-miscible lubricant to at least a portion of the container-contacting surface of the conveyor or to at least a portion of the conveyor-contacting surface of the container.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the mixture forms a substantially non-dripping film.
3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the mixture can be applied without requiring in-line dilution with significant amounts of water.
4. A method according to claim 1, wherein the mixture can readily be removed using a water-based cleaning agent.
5. A method according to claim 1, wherein the mixture is formed without adding surfactants that cause environmental stress cracking in polyethylene terephthalate.
6. A method according to claim 1, wherein the mixture comprises about 0.05 to about 12 wt. % of the silicone material and about 30 to about 99.95 wt. % of the hydrophilic lubricant.
7. A method according to claim 1, wherein the mixture also comprises water or a hydrophilic diluent.
8. A method according to claim 7, wherein the mixture comprises about 0.5 to about 8 wt. % of the silicone material, about 50 to about 90 wt. % of the hydrophilic lubricant, and about 2 to about 49.5 wt. % of water or hydrophilic diluent.
9. A method according to claim 1, wherein the silicone material comprises a silicone emulsion, finely divided silicone powder, or silicone surfactant.
10. A method according to claim 1, wherein the silicone material comprises a silicone emulsion and the mixture comprises water.

11. A method according to claim 1, wherein the water-miscible lubricant comprises a hydroxy-containing compound, polyalkylene glycol, copolymer of ethylene and propylene oxides, sorbitan ester or derivative of any of the foregoing.
12. A method according to claim 1, wherein the water-miscible lubricant comprises a phosphate ester or amine or derivative of either of the foregoing.
13. A method according to claim 1, wherein the water-miscible lubricant comprises glycerol.
14. A method according to claim 1, wherein the mixture has a total alkalinity equivalent to less than about 100 ppm CaCO_3 .
15. A method according to claim 14, wherein the total alkalinity equivalent is less than about 30 ppm CaCO_3 .
16. A method according to claim 1, wherein the mixture has a coefficient of friction less than about 0.14.
17. A method according to claim 16, wherein the coefficient of friction is less than about 0.1.
18. A method according to claim 1, wherein the containers comprise polyethylene terephthalate or polyethylene naphthalate.
19. A method according to claim 1, wherein the mixture is applied only to those portions of the conveyor that will contact the containers, or only to those portions of the containers that will contact the conveyor.
20. A method according to claim 1, wherein the mixture exhibits shear thinning while being applied and is non-dripping when at rest.
21. A lubricated conveyor or container, having a lubricant coating on a container-contacting surface of the conveyor or on a conveyor-contacting surface of the container, wherein the coating comprises a mixture of a water-miscible silicone

material and a water-miscible lubricant.

22. A conveyor or container according to claim 21, wherein the coating forms a substantially non-dripping film.
23. A conveyor or container according to claim 21, wherein the mixture can be applied without requiring in-line dilution with significant amounts of water.
24. A conveyor or container according to claim 21, wherein the coating can readily be removed using a water-based cleaning agent.
25. A conveyor or container according to claim 21, wherein the mixture was formed without adding surfactants that cause environmental stress cracking in polyethylene terephthalate.
26. A conveyor or container according to claim 21, wherein the coating comprises about 0.5 to about 8 wt. % of the silicone material, about 50 to about 90 wt. % of the hydrophilic lubricant, and further comprises about 2 to about 49.5 wt. % of water or hydrophilic diluent.
27. A conveyor or container according to claim 21, wherein the silicone material comprises silicone emulsion, finely divided silicone powder, or silicone surfactant; and the water-miscible lubricant comprises a hydroxy-containing compound, polyalkylene glycol, copolymer of ethylene and propylene oxides, sorbitan ester or derivative of any of the foregoing lubricants.
28. A conveyor or container according to claim 21, wherein the silicone material comprises silicone emulsion, finely divided silicone powder, or silicone surfactant; and the water-miscible lubricant comprises a phosphate ester, amine or derivative of either of the foregoing lubricants.
29. A conveyor or container according to claim 21, wherein the coating comprises a silicone emulsion, glycerol and water.
30. A conveyor or container according to claim 21, wherein the coating has a total

alkalinity equivalent to less than about 100 ppm CaCO_3 and the containers comprise polyethylene terephthalate or polyethylene naphthalate.

31. A conveyor or container according to claim 30, wherein the total alkalinity equivalent is less than about 30 ppm CaCO_3
32. A conveyor or container according to claim 30, wherein the containers comprise crystalline and amorphous surface portions and the coating contacts one or more crystalline surface portions but does not contact significant amorphous surface portions of the container.
33. Conveyor and container lubricant compositions comprising a mixture of a water-miscible silicone material and a water-miscible lubricant.
34. A lubricant composition according to claim 33, wherein the mixture can readily be removed from a surface using a water-based cleaning agent.
35. A lubricant composition according to claim 33, wherein the mixture comprises about 0.05 to about 12 wt. % of the silicone material and about 30 to about 99.95 wt. % of the hydrophilic lubricant.
36. A lubricant composition according to claim 33, wherein the mixture comprises about 0.5 to about 8 wt. % of the silicone material, about 50 to about 90 wt. % of the hydrophilic lubricant, and further comprises about 2 to about 49.5 wt. % of water or hydrophilic diluent.
37. A lubricant composition according to claim 33, wherein the mixture comprises about 0.8 to about 4 wt. % of the silicone material, about 65 to about 85 wt. % of the hydrophilic lubricant, and further comprises about 11 to about 34.2 wt. % of water or hydrophilic diluent.
38. A lubricant composition according to claim 33, wherein the silicone material comprises a silicone emulsion, finely divided silicone powder, or silicone surfactant; and the water-miscible lubricant comprises a hydroxy-containing compound, polyalkylene glycol, copolymer of ethylene and propylene oxides, sorbitan ester, or

derivative of any of the foregoing lubricants.

39. A lubricant composition according to claim 33, wherein the silicone material comprises a silicone emulsion, finely divided silicone powder, or silicone surfactant; and the water-miscible lubricant comprises a phosphate ester, amine or derivative of either of the foregoing lubricants.
40. A lubricant composition according to claim 33, wherein the mixture comprises a silicone emulsion.
41. A lubricant composition according to claim 40, wherein the mixture is substantially free of surfactants aside from those that may be required to emulsify the silicone compound sufficiently to form the silicone emulsion.
42. A lubricant composition according to claim 33, wherein the mixture comprises glycerol.
43. A lubricant composition according to claim 33, wherein the mixture comprises a silicone emulsion, glycerol and water.